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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Giannmaria Sitar

Confirmation No.: 4515

Serial No.: 09/937,137

Art Unit: 1651

Filed: Sept. 21, 2001

Examiner: Vera Afremova

For: A METHOD FOR THE  
SEPARATION OF FETAL  
CELLS FROM THE  
MATERNAL PERIPHERAL  
BLOOD

Attorney Docket No: 9952-047-999

**PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR § 1.136(a)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

It is respectfully requested that the time for response to the Office Action dated March 17, 2003 be extended for a period of three month(s) from June 17, 2003 to and including September 17, 2003.

The fee for this extension is estimated to be \$465.00. Please charge the required fee to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150. A copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 17, 2003

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